

INDEPENDENT SAFETY REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

Edition 36 - September 26, 1994

These bi-weekly highlights list ongoing and upcoming activities at the Rocky Flats Environmental Technology Site (RFETS) which have the potential for becoming safety or environmental issues. Not all applicable items of interest are presented, and topics will be repeated in future editions only when the status changes significantly.

CURRENT ISSUES/EVENTS

- 1 Rebuttal to Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) - DOE, RFFO notified EG&G Rocky Flats, Inc (EG&G) and CDPHE that DOE, HQ disagrees with CDPHE's request that the active permitted tanks, T-24 and T-32, be investigated and that tanks T-8 and T-9 be included in the investigation. DOE, HQ stated that "investigation of the permitted T-24 and T-32 tanks will be wasteful of funds because the tanks will be investigated at the time of their closure and, in the interim, continued use may enhance the probability of recontamination." Furthermore, "the T-8 and T-9 tanks are currently used for plenum deluge retention that supports the plant's vital safety systems." Reference 03497-RF-94
- 2 LECO Crucible Repack in Building 707 - EG&G notified DOE, RFFO that the Residue Stabilization organization is ready to commence with repacking LECO crucible residue drums in Building 707. LECO crucibles were used for carbon analysis of samples received from the Building 707 Foundry, Building 771 Metallurgy Operations, and research and development projects. LECO crucibles were originally packaged in one gallon paint cans or four-liter poly bottles, and were considered non-pyrophoric residue. The current schedule shows three phases of repacking activities. Phase 1 consists of a demonstration to repack 2 drums of less-than 200 gram Pu LECO drums (currently stored in Building 707). Phase 2 consists of repacking the remaining 9 of the less-than 200 gram Pu drums. Phase 3 consists repacking 154 of the greater-than 200 gram Pu drums. Reference 94-RF-09416
- 3 Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) Request for Depleted Uranium Material - DOE, RFFO authorized EG&G to transfer two depleted uranium (D-38) derbies to LLNL. Reference 03178-RF-94
- 4 Characterization of Uranium Holdup - DOE, RFFO notified EG&G that during building decontamination and decommissioning (D&D) and deactivation activities, the total fissile holdup of uranium-235 (U^{235}) and plutonium-239 (Pu^{239}) must be characterized to ensure criticality safety. Therefore, EG&G was requested to provide plans for assuring accurate characterization of fissile holdup solution by October 1, 1994. Reference 03527-RF-94

ADMIN RECCRD
SW-A-003412

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- 5 Current Status of Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Tissue Sampling in Walnut Creek, Woman Creek, and Offsite - EG&G notified DOE, RFFO that results of the Operable Unit (OU) 6 pond sediment and tissue sampling project indicated that detectable levels of PCBs were found in minnows from some A- and B-Series Ponds. Detected levels were below 500 µg/kg, but at levels sufficient to cause adverse effects on some sensitive fish species. Further laboratory tissue sample analyses from Great Western Reservoir, Mower Reservoir, Standley Lake, and Ponds C1 and C2 are forthcoming. Reference 94-RF-09294
- 6 Delegation of Review and Approval Authority for Safety Documentation at RFETS - DOE, RFFO notified EG&G that EM-1 delegated approval authority from the DOE Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management to the RFFO Manager for hazard category 2 and hazard category 3 nuclear facility Safety Analysis Reports (SARs), Safety Analysis (SAs), Technical Safety Requirements (TSRs), Technical Specifications (TSs), Operational Safety Requirements (OSRs), Unreviewed Safety Questions (USQs), and Safety Evaluation Reports (SERs). Reference 03523-RF-94
- 7 Commencement of Field Work Activities at OU 14 - DOE, RFFO notified EG&G, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) of the intent to begin staking surficial soils sampling locations at OU 14. The sampling approach is consistent with the Industrial Area OU 14 Integrated Field Sampling Plan. Reference 03526-RF-94
- 8 Approval of the Basis for Interim Operations for Building 707 - DOE, RFFO notified EG&G that DOE, HQ has approved the Basis for Interim Operations (BIO) for thermal stabilization operations in Building 707. Also, "the nuclear safety BIO for thermal stabilization operations in Building 707 is hereby concurred with by RFFO". Reference 03465-RF-94
- 9 Accelerated Schedule for Mixed Residue Drum Consolidation - EG&G notified DOE, RFFO that an evaluation regarding subsequent impact of accelerating the schedule for mixed residue drum consolidation determined that the drum moves can be completed by the end of October, 1994. Reference 94-RF-08988
- 10 DOE Standard for Storage of Plutonium Metals and Oxides - DOE, RFFO proposed to DOE, HQ that the subject Standard be modified to incorporate interim storage criteria. DOE, RFFO is concerned that the current draft standard, when approved, will drive the DOE complex to implement actions that are costly and slow to accomplish. RFFO recommended that the current technical basis be maintained for the long term criteria, including changes developed during the comment period. RFFO also advocated including interim criteria that allow greater flexibility in utilizing individual site capabilities so as to improve plutonium storage safety while minimizing cost and scheduling. Reference 03467-RF-94

- 11 Evaluation of the Potential for Dense Non-Aqueous Phase Liquids (DNAPL) Migration During Operable Unit 2 Subsurface Interim Measure/Interim Remedial Action (IM/IRA) - The Director of Environmental Restoration Management at EG&G notified DOE, RFFO that. "We continue to be concerned about the potential impact to ground water during the operation of the Six Phase Heating project as part of the OU 2 Subsurface IM/IRA. Since heating will only occur in the vadose zone, there is a potential for migration of the DNAPL to the saturated zone, further impacting ground water quality." Reference 03558-RF-94
- 12 Precious Metals Disposition Plan - EG&G submitted to DOE, RFFO the Precious Metals Disposition Plan for review, comment, and approval. The purpose of the plan is to reduce the amount of precious metals held at RFETS. Reference 94-RF-09314
- 13 DOE HQ Visits -
 - No activity to report for this Edition
- 14 DNFSB Visits -
 - No activity to report for this Edition

PLANNED PROJECTS/EVENTS

- 1 September 27-29, DNFSB staff members will be at RFETS to review emergency diesel generators in Buildings 371, 559, 707, 771, and 779

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